

SUPERSTORE PHENOMENON!!!

Barnes & Noble, Media Play, Borders and Crown. We all know the names and what they have to offer; large inventories coupled with a discounting policy. These chains offer more books at cheaper prices to readers, but at what cost to the smaller and local independent bookstores. The corporate-backed superchains now account for over half of the market. The chains are driven by profits and tend to stock titles that appeal to the greatest number of people. Independent booksellers also carry popular titles but are generally geared to their community's particular interests. Due to publishers' volume discounts to these chains, many independent bookstores have declared bankruptcy and closed their doors. Others are struggling to survive. If you are concerned about the free flow of ideas from smaller independent publishers, your dollars are better spent supporting independent publishers and booksellers.

AQUARIUS BOOKS INC. 306 S. Washington St.
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Publisher's Include:

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Wash. 98109 206-286-8915

The Naiad Press, P.O.Box 10543, Tallahassee,
Florida, 32302 904-539-5965

Spinsters Ink, 32 East First Street, #330, Duluth,
Minn. 55802-2002 1-800-301-6860

Womankind Books, 5 Kivy St., Huntington Sta-
tion, New York 11746 516-427-1289

**THE OPEN ARMS STAFF
WOULD LIKE TO WISH
EVERYONE A WONDER-
FUL HOLIDAY SEASON
AND THE VERY BEST IN
THE COMING NEW YEAR**



Attention Advertisers and Subscribers:
Please read the announcements on page 6.

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE for Womyn & Children

1650 West Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church,
Andersonville, Illinois
(773) 477-8362

15th Annual Mid-Winter Crafts Festival 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Come... celebrate the Mini-Fest with artisans and merchants
from all over the country.....

Lavendar Life Magazine announces 3rd Annual Writing
Contest. All original short stories and poetry received between
Oct. 1, 1996 and Dec.31, 1996 will automatically be entered into
the contest. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be an-
nounced in their January 15, 1997 Anniversary issue. Entries
should be typed, double-spaced on white paper. A self-addressed
stamped envelope should be included to ensure a reply. For
more information or to send your entry write to: Lavendar Life,
P.O. Box 898 Binghamton, N.Y. 13902-0898. Attention:
Pamela K. Fite

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OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the Jan. newsletter is
Dec.13th. Submissions received after Dec.13th may not be
published in the Jan. newsletter. Mail submissions to *Open
Arms*, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or give to any
staff member.

**Newsletter Meeting Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m. For information
271-0338**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday
7-9 p.m.

For info, write:
LSG

P.O. Box 1612
Mishawaka, IN 46544



Lavender Rhythm New Year's Eve Dance

Tuesday, Dec 31st, 1996
Pickwick Place
219 N. 4th St., Niles
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

\$7.00 admission at the door

Womyn only, smoking room inside, BYOB

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Sherrill and Lori 684-6913

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Suze219-254-8676 (Beeper)
Kaye & Marcia219-271-0338
Jean219-259-2177
Joy219-259-0906

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content.
We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed,
but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her
name if so requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter
quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space
line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.



Scholarship Money!

The University of Michigan Lesbian
and Gay Alumni Society awards two
\$500 grants each term for
Lesbian/Gay fulltime students at U

of M. Applications for the February award are
available through the LGBPO: 313-763-4186.

THIRD FRIDAY OUT

No dining out this month due to the holidays!

All suggestions of future places would be
appreciated

Viv's Creativity Salon

Last Sunday of Every Month
Dec. 29th, 1:00 p.m.

417 Michigan St, Berrien Springs, MI
Bring poem, stories, paintings, songs,
etc...SHARE self expression or your favorite
creative energy of other wommin.

For more info, call Viv: 616-473-6150
or Lisa 219-299-9241

UP AND COMING EVENTS

Midwest B/L/G College Conference

Feb 21-23 at Indiana State University in Terre
Hute. For info call 812-237-6916 ext 1, email
MBLGCC97@indstate.edu



Olivia Cruises

February, 1997	Tahiti Cruise
March, 1997	Copper Mtn, Colorado
April, 1997	Mexican Caribbean
July, 1997	Greek Isles/Turkey
October, 1997	Huatulco, Mexico

call 1-800-631-6277 for information

Notre Dame Women's Basketball

Dec.	7	Providence	1 p.m.
	9	Wisconsin	7 p.m.
	11	Indiana	7 p.m.
Jan.	9	West Virginia	7 p.m.
	18	Pittsburgh	1 p.m.
	21	Rutgers	7 p.m.
Feb.	25	Georgetown	1 p.m.
	6	Syracuse	7 p.m.
	12	Boston College	7 p.m.
	19	Villanova	7 p.m.
	22	Seton Hall	7 p.m.

THE POST COMING OUT DAY BLUES

by Lee Lynch

Rats! I forgot to come out to somebody on National Coming Out Day this year. As my mother always says with a big sigh when we pass a crowd entering a church, "Look at all those good people." Thanks to all you good people who did a brave thing.

At the same time, I think I'm in good company of another sort. Accuse me of stereotyping if you'd like, but I suspect most lesbians and gay men in the senior category would rather un-retire than come out to a straight bridge partner, a meal-site volunteer, a next-door neighbor. I know an old butch who gets her hair permed specifically so no one will guess. I know a debonair old fella who very publicly dotes on his rose bushes, but fears being seen at a human rights meeting.

Not that one has to be old to be cautious. As long as no one at school knows that Mel goes home to Charley or Doris spends weekends with MaryEllen, when these teachers walk into their classrooms they simply cease being gay. If they were out they'd be too self-conscious for comfort. Mel, bending over a six year old to guide the boy's hands through a series of numbers would jump at the thought of what the vice principal would think. Doris, out, would wear skirts to coach field hockey so she wouldn't look masculine.

A headline in the 10/24/96 "New York Times" reads, "Discrimination May Impair Blacks' Health." In part, the article says that "higher blood pressure may be attributable to suppressed or internalized responses to racial discrimination." Surprise!

I think of young Jenny, soldering circuit boards, silent while the women at her table talk about some man who left his wife and kids for another man. "He ought to be put in jail." "No, shot." "They ought to shoot all the queers." Jenny's dreaming up something to say to that brown-eyed girl she just met. She hears her co-workers. Daydreams get her through.

I think of non-white dykes and gay men. How do they take it? Life's hard enough without the self-righteous double-damning them.

Or I think of me. On October 9, I had just met with a small business owner in connection with my job. His big pickup was parked next to my car. He looked at my Clinton/Gore bumper sticker, smiled and asked, "What're you, a Democrat?"

"Somebody's got to be," I joked back.

Still perfectly pleasant, he replied, "We got to get that faggot and her husband out of the White House."

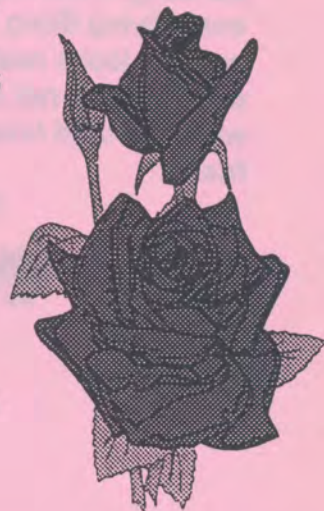
Two days before National Coming Out Day, did I leap from my car and accost him? Did I quietly suggest that was a homophobic thing to say? Did I insist he be more respectful of our President? Did I timidly confess, "Some of my best friends are faggots?" Did I growl, "Watch out who you're talking to, asshole, I'm a bull-dagger with P.M.S. and I know karate?"

Although I believe that if we all jumped out of our closets at once we'd change the world, I removed my bumper-stickers so I don't alienate people who can help my clients. And that's okay.

I hope there aren't a lot of gays beating themselves up because they didn't tell anyone but their parakeets. And scared themselves doing that. We're all good people doing the best we can.

Copyright Lee Lynch 1996

Author Lee Lynch has written many novels and short stories. Her novels are published by The Naiad Press, Inc. and can be ordered by mail from: The Naiad Press, P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, Florida, 32302 Telephone 904-539-5965





**COURT OF FRIENDS
SINGLES**

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

**The Court of Friends
P.O.Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120**

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. **COME ON SINGLES!** Someone special wants to know you're out there!

55 Hi, I am a 52 year old WF looking for a woman who's ready for a close friendship and possible committed relationship.

My interests include flower gardening, state parks, long walks, camping, dinner by candlelight, music fest, cats, and working.

Looking for someone special with high family values and some type of spiritual life.

No drugs, alcohol, or bi's. Smoking O.K.

If interested write and we'll meet for coffee and conversation.

56 To someone special...looking for same. Here I am. 27, but I feel like a kid emotionally mature. Game for about anything. As long as no one is hurt. Music, movies, camping, dancing, children, flowers. There is beauty in every living thing. Prefer someone older, but age nor looks really matter. Holidays are soon coming, let's not be alone. Find the time and write. I would love to make, well, a special friend.

Someone Special

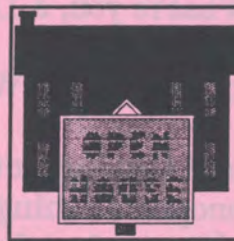


St. Joe Valley N O W Lesbian Committee
Each month The Lesbian Committee surveys 8-10 similar businesses or services in your area in order to identify those businesses that are lesbian/ gay friendly. We then make the list of businesses who responded within the deadline, and those who did not, available to local lesbian/ gay newsletters. In addition, TLC will compile an annual directory of lesbian/gay-friendly businesses and distribute it to local lesbian/gay organizations.

This month we polled local **Realtors** to find out about their sensitivity toward and support of lesbians and gay men. We asked the usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply.

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that one of your employees was a lesbian or gay, would you retain them in the same position?

Yes to all three:



**Martie Black
Century 21, 271-5444
Tom Tracey
Modern Realty, 683-8629**

No Reply:

**Joan Gondek & Jean Scott
Century 21
Joan Drown, Modern
Realty
Zoanne Perez and
Gerry Zacharski of New
Day
Mary Booth, Van McGray,
Jack Spice of National
Real Estate Service**



IN THE NEWS

WOMEN FIND LESS IS LESS

Nearly half (45%) of the women in the world aged 15 to 64 are working, but on the average they earn just 75% as much as men do for the same work, according to a recent report by the International Labor Organization.

While more and more women are working, most have low-wage, precarious jobs. One reason: they make up 65% of the world's 1 billion illiterate adults. And they still do most of the unpaid work - that is, housework. In developing countries, women spend 31 to 42 hours a week on chores, while men spend only 5 to 15 hours a week doing housework.

WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

One out of every four American workers is employed by a business owned by a woman and women own more than one-third of all the businesses in the nation says The National Foundation for Women Business Owners. There are now 7.95 million companies owned by women, up from 4.48 million in 1987. Susan Peterson, the foundation chairman said, "The sheer strength of the numbers reaffirms that women business owners are powerful catalysts for promoting the health of economy." The rapid growth of women owned businesses is partly attributed to the steady increase of working women since WW II. The largest share (52%) of women-owned companies is in the service sector but the most explosive growth since 1987 has come in non-traditional industries such as construction, up 171%, transportation & communications, up 140%, agriculture, up 130%, and manufacturing, up 112%.



HEALTH BEAT

LOVE & SEX

Hotlines offer help and anonymity.....

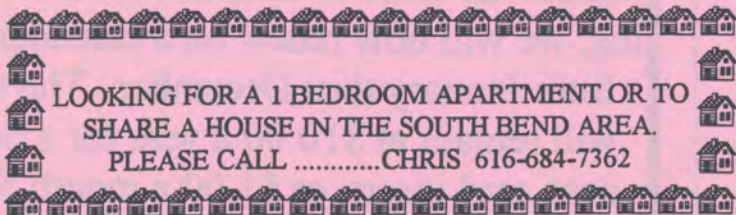
A recent Gallup study commissioned by the American Social Health Association (ASHA) found that the biggest obstacle facing adults who want to protect themselves against sexually transmitted diseases is embarrassment. Each day, more than 4,000 people call an ASHA hotline for confidential counseling about AIDS (800-342-2437), STD's (800-227-8922) or HERPES (919-361-8488).....from SELF Nov. 1996

from USA TODAY...

A new study suggests that women with high bone mass, and thus a low risk of fractures in old age, have a significantly raised risk of breast cancer. The finding is preliminary but both bone mass and breast cancer appear linked with the amount of natural estrogen a woman is exposed to over a lifetime. Using an available test, the researchers measured bone density in 6854 women. Over the next three years, 97 women developed breast cancer. The 25% of women with the highest bone mass had double the breast cancer risk of the 25% with the lowest bone mass - suggesting bone mass is as powerful a predictor of breast cancer as family history. The common link, lifetime estrogen exposure, is determined by many factors a woman has little or no control over, including the number of years she menstruates. But the researchers say the study also may be a reason to worry about giving extra estrogen to post-menopausal women with strong bones.

FLASH.....Brief bouts of exercise add up to more weight loss.....Women who were told to work out for 10 minutes, four times a day, exercised more each week and lost about five more pounds within 20 weeks than women who were told to exercise 40 minutes, once a day, according to research from the University of Pittsburgh.

Nothing tastes better than the stuff you're eating when you're cheating on a diet.



LOOKING FOR A 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT OR TO
SHARE A HOUSE IN THE SOUTH BEND AREA.
PLEASE CALLCHRIS 616-684-7362

THE RIGHTS OF LESBIANS AND GAY MEN The Basic ACLU Guide to a Gay Person's Rights

This informative new volume (1992) provides a careful survey of the rights of lesbians and gay men under present law, specifically in regard to freedom of speech and association, employment, housing, the military, family relationships, criminal matters, security clearances, and HIV disease. Written in non-technical language and using a question and answer format, it is the third edition of a work first published in 1975.

This book, which is ultimately about the value of diversity and the right to dissent, provides both an overview of general trends in the law and an introduction to ways in which people can begin to assert their legal rights.

AUTHORS: Nan D. Hunter, Sherryl E. Michaelson, Thomas B. Stoddard Available through the Southern Illinois Press
P.O. Box 3697, Carbondale, Ill. 62902-3697
submitted by: Sally A.

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ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!!!

Beginning January 1997 Open Arms will be changing the way advertisements are billed. In order to facilitate record keeping, we will now renew on a calendar year from January thru December. The cost will remain at \$10.00 a year for a business card insert, or \$1.00 a month for a limited time insert.

ATTENTION SUBSCRIBERS!!!

In order to facilitate record keeping, Open Arms asks that when you move, please send us a change of address ASAP. If you have fallen on hard times and feel that you cannot afford the newsletter, please let us know and we will continue to mail you the newsletter so that you can be aware of what is happening in our community.

In addition to our standard rate of \$10.00 a year, we would also like to offer a special subscription rate of \$25.00 for 3 years. This new rate will help us to save postage and handling charges.

Subscription form: Open Arms-\$10.00/year or \$25.00/3 Years

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Make checks payable to Open Arms and mail to:
P.O.Box 845, Mishawaka, Ind. 46546

When you aim for perfection,
you discover it's a moving target.

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Mary Cecilia Roemer, M.A. CAC

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December

1996

Sun

Mon

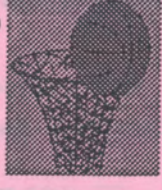
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 another mile- stone..... 40 LIZ W. 	2  Happy Birthday VIVIAN	3	4	5 Happy B-day JACKIE N. 	6  HANUKKAH	7  N.D. vs Providence 1:00 p.m.
8 OPEN ARMS MEETING 6:30 p.m.	9  N.D. vs Wisconsin 7:00 p.m.	10	11  N.D. vs Indiana 7:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19  Best Wishes CHRISTINE L.	20	21
22	23	24	25 	26	27 CAROL S. 	28
29 VIV'S Creativity Salon 1:00 p.m. Berrien Springs, Mi.	30	31  Happy Birthday Andrea N.	LAVENDER RHYTHM'S NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE in Niles, Mi. 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.			

